

A CARD FROM MOROCCO - Robert Shaw.

The hand of Mr. Grahame Greene shows itself here,  
most unfortunately.

OUT.

THE PARADISE MAN - John Hal .

They turn this book out in the U.S. by the dozen.

OUT.

COME TO THE WAR - Leslie Thomas.

Superficial.

OUT.

THE YOUNG AND LONELY KING - Jane Lane.

OUT.

MEN WENT TO CATTRAETH - John James.

OUT.

PAWN IN FRANKINCENSE - Dorothy Dunnett.

This is such an incredible book I just cannot  
express an opinion.

OUT.

WORKING ORDERS - Michael Irwin.

I admire the writing of this very much, the descriptions  
of the warehouse would have made Zola envious in their  
clarity and vividness. But there is a curious inappropri-  
ateness about the treatment of the theme. The story  
builds up expectation as if it were a thriller, when all  
that is done is a revelation of a character under  
prognosticable strains.

OUT.

GRACELESS GO I - Anthony Storey.

I find this horrible book remarkable in several ways. To begin with, it is a serious ~~and~~ study of one of the perils of our age, which is the mad psychiatrist; and there is acuteness in the representation of the ease with which the two intolerable main characters victimise the innocent (the "nice couple"). I find the narrator's insane participation in a sane activity as a professional footballer quite fascinating. The writing has an intensity lacking in nearly all the other books and there is some humour, which is also a rare commodity in this lot.

IN.

THE TOAD BENEATH THE HARROW - Roger Cleeve.

Some interesting material, but unskilful.

OUT.

FLASHMAN - George MacDonald Fraser.

This is a thoroughly 'good read' and it has wonderful skill in its treatment of material which has been collected with considerable intelligence, but it seems to me not a very important book. The theme is too particular without any general application. This is the best of its sort, but I do not think the sort rates very high.

OUT.

BRUNO'S DREAM - Iris Murdoch.

Like all Iris Murdoch's novels this is unequal. The farce is clodhopping, as her farce always is, and some of her characters misfire entirely. But some of it is brilliantly skilful on a high level. I do not think she has the piercing wisdom of A. L. Barker, whom I think is a considerable writer in the same field of relationships, but she has a genius for the picturesque.

IN.

THE ELECTED MEMBER - Bernice Rubens.

I wish Jewish authors would not write of themselves as if they were strange animals in the Zoo, but this is a good and touching and funny book.

IN.